

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed December 16, 2003. The Office Action first reports that claim 13 was rejected as being indefinite citing use of the words "first" and "second". Applicant has amended claim 13 to remove the use of these words with respect to the sensing circuits. A similar change has been made to claim 14. In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action next reports that claims 1, 2, 3, 6-14 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shull et al. (U.S. Pat. 3,618,376) in view of Sommerfeld et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,969,268). The Office Action has also indicated that claims 4, 5 and 15-22 are allowed.

With this amendment, applicant has cancelled claim 1, reserving the right to file a divisional case with the subject matter recited therein. Dependent claims 2, 6 and 7 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 4. With the amendments made to claims 2, 6 and 7, dependent claims 3, 8-14 and 23 also now depend from allowed claim 4. New claims 28-32 have been added to depend from allowed claim 17. It also is respectfully believed all the dependent claims are separately patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully believed that claims 2-23 and 28-32 are in condition for allowance.

A typographical amendment was made to claim 17 and it is respectfully believed that neither the scope of the claim has been changed or that any new matter has been added by this amendment.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended. Favorable action upon all pending claims is solicited.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith for a prior art load cell and for a paper submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement filed by telefax on Dec. 12, 2003. However, applicant did not receive an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form submitted in the Dec. 12th filing with the Office Action, thus it is included again herewith.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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